

Ely BLM Field Office
Environmental Assessment
EA NV-040-04-19
Second Nature Wilderness Program Operations

Ely Field Office
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I. Background Information

A. Introduction

Second Nature Wilderness Program (SNWP) is a treatment program designed to help struggling teens by taking them on extended hiking/backpacking trips in the backcountry. The remote public land and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District provides the optimum setting for SNWP. The isolation and remoteness of these areas provides for safe and effective treatment due to the lack of outside contact, which forces SNWP participants to become more dependent on their instructors/guides.

B. Need for the Proposal

The proposed action would meet the demand for recreational use on public land by allowing guided hiking/backpacking/camping trips on public land managed by the Ely BLM District. As a commercial use of public lands, Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 8372.1-1 requires the issuance of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP).

C. Relationship to Planning

The proposed action is in conformance with the following applicable Land Use Plans (LUPs).

The Schell Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1983) states, “The public has permission to go upon and enjoy the public lands so long as such use does not cause damage to the land and resources thereon”.

The Caliente MFP (1980) states, “Recreational values should be made available to the public as long as the resource is continued”

D. Issues

Conflicts with private land owners and state lands (Kershaw Ryan State Park)
Conflicts with other recreational uses (hunting)
Impacts in frequently used areas
Conflict with camping area impacts to water and vegetation

II. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, SNWP would be granted a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for the program area (541,158 acres) with a northern boundary of Clover Creek and an eastern boundary of the Nevada/Utah state line (Appendix I: Program Area Map). The SRP would allow the organization to run a maximum of ten year-round backcountry expeditions that would take place in the program area. A maximum of three groups would be allowed in the WSA at one time.

Each group would consist of no more than ten teens and four counselors/guides. Each teen participating in SNWP would be part of a group for an average of five weeks, backpacking 2-10 miles each day. All supplies needed by the group would be carried in backpacks by group members. Groups set up camp at night which includes a fire/camp stove for heat/cooking and tarps for protection from the elements. Fires would be made and used following Leave No Trace Principles (Appendix II: Second Nature Guidelines "Fires"). One layover day a week is expected to facilitate a therapist visit (maximum site stay three days). Every Tuesday SNWP staff would cycle in and out depending on group size, needs, and available staff.

Each group would pick up water and food dropped off by SNWP backup staff at predefined locations twice a week. Vehicles would be used to drop food and water, change staff, and change group participants. Vehicle use would be limited to established routes as shown on official inventory maps. All vehicle use by SNWP would be conducted in accordance with off-road vehicle designations. Information regarding off-road vehicle designated locations within WSA's and applicable vehicle use policies would be provided by the Ely Field Office.

SNWP groups would relocate to different camping areas each day. SNWP values each participant's backcountry experience; regularly used public areas will be avoided in order to give SNWP participants a true wilderness experience.

All campsites will be out of sight/sound of other groups and greater than 200ft from all water sources, riparian areas, trails, cultural, and geological areas. Participants are taught Leave No Trace Ethics and practice low impact camping (Appendix II: Second Nature Guidelines).

During their expeditions, participants would engage in service projects (trail construction and maintenance, weed eradication, campsite rehabilitation, established campsite clean-up, fence maintenance, guzzler construction, and garbage clean-up). All projects would be completed under the discretion and supervision of the Ely Field Office.

Site impact monitoring and field compliance checks will occur at least monthly. SNWP will provide the BLM with the UTM coordinates of camping areas to aid in site impact evaluations. The monitoring process will include photo documentation of sites, noxious weed inventorying, GPS site location, and site impact data collection. Field monitoring will determine if Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) are appropriate for the sites within the program area.

Mitigations

SNWP will follow all SRP permit stipulations (Appendix III) in order to minimize environmental degradation within the program area.

B. No Action Alternative

Under a No Action Alternative, the Ely Field Office would deny the permit.

III. Description of the Affected Environment

The affected environment is a 541,158 acre area located within the Clover Mountain watershed and includes the entire Clover Mountain WSA. The northern boundary is Clover Creek, the eastern boundary is the Nevada/Utah state line, and the western boundary runs along Rainbow Canyon and extends East towards Lyman Crossing. The affected area encompasses 527,492 federal acres, 11,381 private acres, and 2,285 State Park acres. Main access to the program area by SNWP will be on county roads across the Nevada/Utah state line into the eastern portion of the program area. Due to the large program area vegetation, topography, and precipitation vary. The area includes lying sage and pinyon pine in the valleys to ponderosa pines, mountain mahogany, and aspen at high elevations and along water features. The northern portion of the affected environment is mostly rolling hills, canyons, and the mountains which make up the Clover Range. The southern portion of the affected environment includes the arid and gentle sloping topography of the Tule Desert.

IV. Environmental Consequences

No impacts are anticipated from the proposed action to special status species (federally listed, proposed or candidate threatened or endangered species, and state sensitive species); floodplains, and wetlands; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and wild and scenic rivers; prime or unique farmlands; environmental justice; cultural, paleontological, and historical resource values; water quality (drinking/ground); air quality; wild horse and burros; Native American religious concerns; wastes, hazardous and solid; or migratory birds.

Wilderness Study Area Values **Proposed Action**

Impacts to WSA values are anticipated. SNWP participants will use “Leave No Trace” and “low impact” camping techniques to minimize disturbances to roads, trails, and campsites. Heavily used areas may see the development of campsites and hiking trails. Impacted areas would get rehabilitated as deemed necessary by the Ely Field Office. WSA values would benefit from the proposed action because the participants would be restoring designated areas within WSA’s during their service projects.

No Action Alternative

No new campsites and hiking trails would be created. No contributions would be made to the restoration of designated sites within WSA's. Large numbers of young adults would not become aware of wilderness areas and the skills needed to protect these natural resources.

Invasive, Non-Native Species (Including Noxious Weeds)

Proposed Action

Impacts due to invasive, non-native species will be minimal. All vehicle use within the SNWP program area will be on existing roads. Mitigation and monitoring measures have been included as part of the proposed action (Section II A & Appendix III #27).

No Action Alternative

Impacts from invasive, non-native species would be minimized due to the lack of increased travel on existing roads within the SNWP program area.

Access

Proposed Action

SNWP groups will be traveling and camping on BLM administered land exclusively. Due to the fact that they strive to find remote locations to function, areas with significant public traffic will be avoided at all costs. Service and rehabilitation projects are the only time when SNWP groups would be staying in high use, developed, or State Parks. Posted private land will be avoided. Vehicles will remain on existing roads and trails.

No Action Alternative

No impacts to access would occur as the result of the No Action Alternative.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)

Proposed

The program area within the Clover Mountains WSA is a Visual Resource Management Class I. The Visual Resource Inventory, H-8411-1, chapter 5 section b(1) states "The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer."

The program area outside the Clover Mountains WSA is a VRM class III and IV; the objective is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape, the level of change to the characteristic landscape could be moderate to high. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the landscape.

Hiking and backpacking are consistent with VRM class objectives. There will be no impacts to VRM within the program area.

No Action Alternative

No impacts would occur as a result of the No Action Alternative

Recreation

Proposed Action

The introduction of hiking groups into the program area would increase the possibility of hunters seeking isolation to become disturbed. The program area does not include any high use premier hunting areas. The likelihood of disturbing hunters is minimal, based on the small number of permits issued by NDOW and the large program area. SNWP groups do not want outside human contact, and strive to always be outside of visual and hearing range of other groups.

No Action Alternative

The possibility of disturbing hunters and other recreationists would not occur due to the lack of SNWP groups within the program area.

Riparian Areas

Proposed Action

SNWP groups are not allowed to camp in riparian areas or any other fragile environment as stated in the SRP guidelines (Appendix III). Groups are instructed to camp at least two hundred feet from riparian areas and would not destroy vegetation in these areas.

No Action Alternative

The possibility of degrading riparian areas would not occur due to lack of SNWP groups within the program area.

IV. Cumulative Impacts

According to the 1994 BLM Handbook Guidelines for Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts, the cumulative analysis should be limited to those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. The issues of importance identified are the impacts of camping areas to vegetation and water features, conflicts with private land owners, conflicts with other recreational users specifically hunters, and the impacts on frequently used campsites and trails/roads. A general discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions follows:

Past Actions

Recreational activities including OHV use is apparent in the area. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) races have occurred in the area. Hunting pressure was minimal with the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) issuing 197 big game tags (big horn sheep, elk, and mule deer) for the hunting areas within the program area in 2003. Numerous wildfires have occurred in the past which has resulted in the development of fire access roads within the program area. The Clover Mountains (WSA) was designated as a Wilderness Study Area in 1979.

Present Actions

Hunting pressure has increased with the NDOW issuing 258 big game tags for the hunting areas within the SNWP program area in 2004. Currently there are two summer OHV races in the program area, the Nevada 200 a three day non-competitive 200 mile trail ride, and Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts (SNORE) a group which sponsors a single day truck race on existing two-track and bladed roads within the program area.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

Big game hunting could increase as a result of the NDOW issuing more hunting permits. OHV racing events could increase in future years along with recreational OHV travel. Other recreational activities could increase in the area in the reasonably foreseeable future. . In the future, Congress will make a determination whether or not to designate the Clover Mountains WSA as wilderness.

Proposed Action-Impacts

The effects of having therapeutic guided hiking/backpacking trips could create new hiking trails and campsites within the program area. SNWP groups are required to follow “low impact” camping techniques,” Leave No Trace” principles, and provide service projects in high use/degraded areas. These actions will help relieve new campsite and trail development pressure.

No Action Alternative-Impacts

Recreation opportunities for SNWP participants would be lost as a result of the No Action Alternative. Wilderness education and “low impact” camping techniques would not be available to a large group of young adults.

V. Proposed Mitigation Measures

The proposed action (Section IIA) and permit stipulations (Appendix I) were determined to be effective in protecting wilderness values. No additional mitigation measures have been considered necessary as a result of the analysis of the potential impacts.

VI. Proposed Monitoring

Suggested monitoring has been stated in the proposed action (Section IIA). No additional monitoring measures are proposed as a result of the analysis of the potential impacts.

VII. Consultation and Coordination

There has been no Native American consultation due to the lack of tribes in the program area

A. Intensity of Public Interest and Record of Contacts

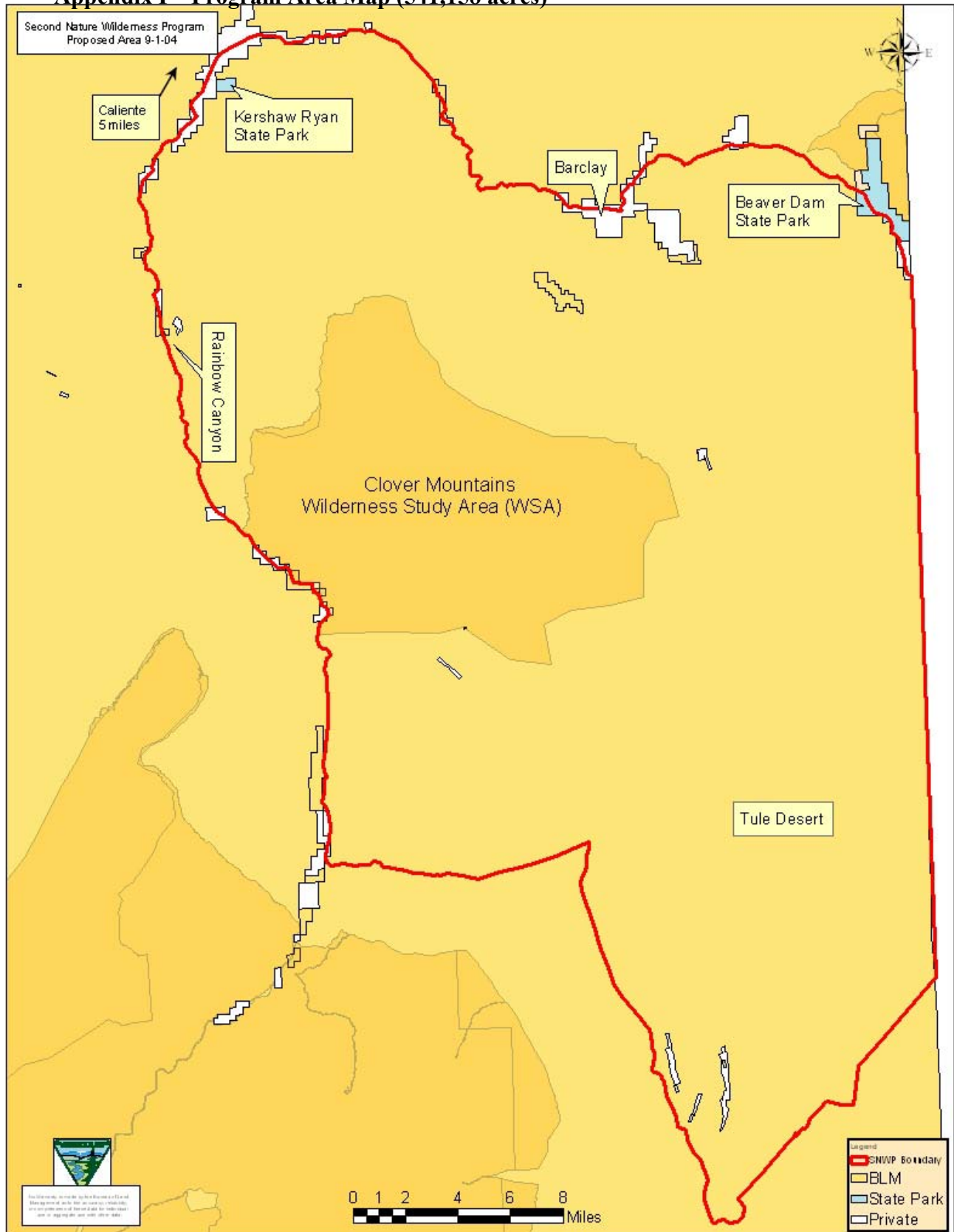
A summary of the proposed action has been posted for public review on the BLM website. Following this, the public will be notified on the BLM website when the EA is completed, DRFONSI signed, and 15 day appeal period initiated.

The Ely Field Office mails a Consultation, Cooperation, and Coordination (CCC) Letter to individuals and organizations that have expressed an interest in recreation/wilderness related actions. Those receiving the CCC Letter have the opportunity to request from the Ely Field Office more information regarding specific actions. Those requesting notification of recreation/wilderness actions are requested to respond if they want a copy of the final EA and signed Decision Record/Finding of No Significant Impacts.

B. Internal District Review

Stephen Leslie	Recreation
Jack Tribble	Recreation/VRM
Sue Baughman	Environmental Coordination
Carolyn Sherve-Bybee	Environmental Coordination/Archaeology
Nate Thomas	Archaeology
Everett Bartz	Range
William Smith	Wildlife Biology
Jared Bybee	Wild Horses and Burros
Karen Prentice	Noxious Weeds

Appendix I – Program Area Map (541,158 acres)



Appendix II - Second Nature Wilderness Program Guidelines

INTRINSIC VALUE OF LOW IMPACT

The values of teaching low impact ethics are more profound than simply something that we are supposed to do to preserve our course areas. It is a great vehicle in moral and integrity development. Once the low impact skills are taught (Fire Phase), there will be innumerable opportunities to reinforce the skills. Steven Simpson (1993) said, "The frequent testing of a person's moral foundation is the most effective way to develop a strong and flexible code of conduct." However, low impact ethics are often discussed without supervision of staff; this inquiry rather than confirmation inhibits the development of integrity. "Promotion of backcountry behavior is an effort to overcome two human weaknesses - ignorance and indifference," (Simpson, 1993). So then how do we as staff facilitate this moral and integrity development while battling ignorance and indifference? By following these teaching points regarding low impact skills (Simpson, 1993). Clearly explain the reasons and the rules of minimum impact, dispelling ignorance and offering the foundations for morality. Turn the low impact decision-making over to the students. By getting the students involved in making decisions, they might become more invested in personal morality instead of forced morality. If the morality is developed for personal reasons the likelihood of developing integrity also increases.

Explicitly put the responsibility to act appropriately on each individual. Hopefully this conversation of accountability will reinforce integrity of the students. If students are consistent and reliable re: low impact requirements, explicitly link their behavior with internalized integrity. Not only does this facilitate a deeper relationship between the students' behavior, the students' beliefs and the environment, it also reinforces student's self-reliance.

SERVICE WORK

Second Nature has put a lot of time and effort into building a good working relationship with the National Forest Service. Second Nature requires service projects as part of the students' treatment. As a result, Second Nature employees, as part of their regular employment, will be assigned trail work building and maintaining Forest Service trails with their groups. This involves doing some manual labor and working with hand tools such as mattocks, shovels, rock bars, etc.

Most of our students come from very affluent backgrounds and have very little, if any, experience giving without hope of reward. Trail work allows them the chance to put in a hard day's work for no tangible reward; service learning offers the program the opportunity to look into the student's guarded thought patterns and identity structure. When a group first arrives at the work site, it can be extremely difficult to get the students invested in the work. With strong role-modeling and support, a radical shift in interpretation often takes place.

BACKPACKING

Backpacking is a means to travel around in the wilderness without being restricted by roads. It also allows the groups to completely relocate camp everyday. Students learn, through the simplicity that backpacking requires, that they need far less to survive and even to be happy than they initially believed.

When students first arrive at the program, they are challenged physically and mentally by the idea of lifting their backpack and hiking with it. By instruction as well as trial and error, the students soon learn techniques about how to pack their pack well, get it on their back, and hike with it. Within the first few weeks of the program most students face the challenge and do extremely well with the task. The physical challenges associated with backpacking are another tangible opportunity for students to redefine themselves at Second Nature.

WILDERNESS

Second Nature's course areas include high desert, sub alpine and alpine terrain. All areas are impacted by our groups but a particular organism in the desert is very sensitive. Therefore, Instructors should teach their students about cryptobiotic soil and help preserve it in the wild.

Cryptobiotic Soil is found throughout the arid world. This living soil crust is mainly cyanobacteria or blue green algae, one of the earth's oldest life forms (approx. 3.5 billion years old). In Cryptobiotic soil, cyanobacteria have evolved in cooperation with many other simple organisms such as lichens, mosses, green algae, other bacteria and microfungi. On the Colorado Plateau, this soil looks like knobby soil with a black crust covering it. It covers about 70-80 percent of the living ground cover and is extremely well developed compared to other areas of the world. This rare living soil plays an important role in its ecosystem. The cryptobiotic soil catches and stores water for itself and vascular plants that are around it. It also attracts negatively charged clay particles that bond with positively charged nutrients that might otherwise be washed or blown away. It thereby saves water, nutrients and organic material to typically arid regions so vascular plants can grow. Destroying colonies contributes to wind and water erosion, mineral loss, instability and other precursors for desertification.

SECOND NATURE LOW IMPACT GUIDELINES

- Camp out of sight & sound of others and at least 200 ft from all water sources and trails. Keep noise levels as low as practical.
- Avoid camping in historical areas or areas with special geological features.
- Do not cut switchbacks.
- Do not alter sites by building structures. Do not dig trenches or scar trees.
- Find protection from wind, rain, lightning, flooding, falling rock and standing dead trees ("widow makers").
- Keep dogs under control at all times.

In High Use areas:

- Stay on designated trails, walking single file in middle of the path.
- Choose an existing campsite where impact has already occurred or one that is durable where vegetation will not be damaged.

In Remote areas:

- When traveling cross-country, avoid traveling the same path repetitively.
- Camp on durable surfaces and restore (naturalize) sites before leaving.
- "Pack it in, pack it out."
- Inspect campsite for trash and remove evidence of stay. Collect and pack out all trash.
- Protect wildlife and food by storing rations securely and hanging bear bags nightly. Clean up and discard spilled foods.

BEAR BAGS

Bear bags are a preventive safety measure, preserving the bears habitat and natural diet. Hang bags April through December.

Bear bags should include all of the following:

- All group food/spice kit/gorp.
- All garbage
- Utensils, pots, cups and any other object with food residue.
- "Smelly bag" (toothpastes, shampoo, soaps, etc.)

Staff must supervise bear bags nightly to ensure they are hung properly, if possible, at least 15 feet off the ground and 10 feet from the tree. Bear bag ropes should be hung (when possible) during day light to ensure proper rope management in "safe" trees. If unable to meet standards other safety measures should be taken e.g. bear bags should be placed hundreds of yards away, etc.

HYGIENE AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE

- Individual "cat holes": Deposit human waste in latrine dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp or trails.
- Waste must be far enough below the surface to mask the smell. After use, cover deposit, camouflage the hole and compress site.
- Group latrines should be at least 12" x 8" x 16".
- Use plain toilet paper sparingly. Pack it out in a sealable plastic bag or burn it after food is cooked. Require students to wash hands with soap and water after using the latrine and before meals.
- Urinate on open ground or down a rock 200 feet away from water sources.
- Wash 200 feet away from water source.
- Wastewater should be strained of solid food particles and then allowed to seep into soil.
- Spit toothpaste in sump or use a spray method.
- Burn or discard filtering material and fill hole before sleeping.
- Paper items may be burnt. Plastic, cans, tampons and food waste must be discarded appropriately.

- After leaving all campsites and on the trail, make sure students do an effective job sweeping camp to ensure there are no items left behind.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Minimize site alterations by replacing large rocks or sticks that were moved for comfort or convenience.
- Avoid damaging live trees and plants.
- Leave natural objects and cultural artifacts.
- Leave native plants, shrubs, trees, and standing snags as found.
- Scatter twigs, pinecones, or other natural debris over bare soil or trampled areas before leaving.
- Leave fence gates as you find them.

FIRES

- Wood fires should only be made where and when fire danger does not exceed the normal range.
- Gather firewood a good distance from camp, taking only wood that is wrist-Diameter (or smaller), Dead, Down and Detached (4Ds).
- Do not strip dead trees.
- Use existing fire rings when available.
- Protect the ground by using a fire pan, sand/dirt mounds, or building pits in dry stream beds when possible.
- Choose a site away from trees, brush, water and over-hanging branches. Do not build fires in pristine areas where impact would be significant.
- Remove all vegetation and clear an area several times larger than the proposed fire. The vegetation, duff and other matter should be placed in a defined area, away from the center of activity, for later replacement.
- Do not rim the fire with rocks or place a fire under an overhang, this scars and leaves obvious impact.
- Make sure the fire is always attended. Keep the fire small and have water nearby for dousing.
- Burn all pieces of wood completely, remove unburned trash.
- Crush cold coals to a size no larger than a pencil eraser and scatter crushed coal ashes over a large area away from camp.
- Reclaim site to its natural site.
- Use two rocks or a crusher billy to crush coals

RANGE ANIMAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Stay in small groups when passing through a herd. Cattle will tend to return to where they were after the disturbance. If a herd is disturbed 2 or more times they will tend to move out of an area to avoid further disturbance. This is usually a designated area for the herd.
- Do not camp within 600-800 yards of water troughs.

- When moving through a herd of cattle, talk in subdued tones.
- Do not driving cattle by making loud noises.
- Avoid areas where there are cattle whenever possible. Go around or in another direction when coming on cattle.
- Do not camp on the edge of small meadows when cattle are in the areas.
- Do not chase or throw things at cattle or their calves.
- If cattle approaches a group wave your hands or hat at them, letting the cattle move away at their own speed.
- Do not push or "tip" cows.
- If the cow/cattle appear mad, is bellowing loudly, blowing, or pawing at the ground, move out of the area, or get something between the group and the animal.
- Leave gates as you find them.

MAP AND COMPASS

Instructors are expected to be sound wilderness guides. As such, they are to be competent and practiced at using map and compass to plan cross country hikes, plot daily and emergency evacuation routes, and direct transport, therapists, and field support to their group location. Hiking away from roads increases the students' experience of the "wilderness". Students will be more apt to feel solitude, will see more of the natural world and will exert themselves more physically, mentally, and emotionally, increasing the value and intensity of their treatment. Hiking cross-country increases the students' uncertainty in their physical location and so reduces confidence and opportunity for absconding from the program. Also, off-road hiking increases the Group's commitment to each other (if one person is struggling, the entire group does). Groups are therefore required to hike off-road whenever and wherever possible.

Without sound understanding and competency using map & compass skills, groups may become lost, disoriented, or be placed in dangerous situations. It is imperative that instructors become fluent at using the tools of orienteering. All instructors are expected to carry a compass; 7.5 minute topographical maps are distributed to each group. Senior instructors are expected to teach less experienced staff how to guide groups using map and compass skills, and to evaluate instructor competency in this area for advancement.

Senior Instructors are required to be proficient in the following skills:

- Describe and explain the parts and functions of a magnetic compass.
- Determine true north and the ordinal directions using a magnetic compass and declination.
- Determine north and directions by locating the North Star.
- Determine direction by sun location and movement.
- Orient the map to the compass; orient the map to the surroundings.
- Determine landmarks, catch features, handrails, check points and plan off-road hikes with such features involved.
- Explain and understand map keys, symbols, contour lines and elevation markings, quadrants, and be able to estimate mileage traveled by studying the map.

- Understand and report UTM and Latitude and Longitude grid location.
- Triangulate the position of the group.
- Demonstrate point-to-point orienteering, site bearings, and aiming off techniques.
- Demonstrate flexible sight strategies while the group is enroute, e.g., walking up the ridge because it looks less dangerous than bushwhacking up the ravine.
- Lead planned cross-country hikes tailored to the group's physical, emotional, and treatment needs.

Instructors in the process of learning these skills, and those who are refreshing their skills, can obtain instruction from senior Instructors, Mentors, and Field Directors or brush up with "Be Expert with Map & Compass" by Bjorn Kjellstrom in the company library.

Know where you go.

**Appendix III - Special Regulations Permit (SRP) Stipulations
Second Nature Wilderness Program
2004 Season of Operation
Ely District**

1. The permittee shall comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The permittee shall make every reasonable effort to ensure compliance with these requirements by all agents of the permittee and by all employees and participants under the permittee's supervision. Failure to meet the terms, conditions or stipulations of the permit will result in the revocation of an existing permit or annual operating license. The BLM may also refuse to issue a permit and/or annual operating license for subsequent years.
2. The permittee is responsible and liable for all actions of their employees and participants on both public and private lands.
 - a. No one shall intentionally or wantonly destroy, deface, remove, or disturb any public building, sign, equipment, marker, or other government property, cultural site or artifact, historic structure, natural feature of the land, vegetation, or wildlife, except as legally taken.
 - b. The permittee, their employees, and participants will not interfere with other valid existing use occurring on the public lands such as grazing, mining, other commercial, and/or private recreational uses (including other guide-outfitting uses, hunting, fishing, etc.).
3. The permittee must ensure that each employee or agent of the permittee is familiar with the terms and conditions of the permit.
4. The BLM reserves the right to alter the terms, conditions, or stipulations of a permit at any time for reasons such as significant policy changes, administrative procedure

changes, stipulation changes, impacts to resource values, user conflicts, changes in fee calculations, etc.

5. Use Fees shall be calculated at 3% of the adjusted gross fees collected. Gross receipts include the total income which has been generated from the permitted activity (on public lands) before deducting costs such as insurance, and other permit or license fees, etc. Use Fees must be paid within 15 days following the event. If a Special Recreation Permit Application fee (\$80.00) has been charged in advance it will be deducted from the adjusted gross fees.
6. The permittee agrees to make all relevant permit books and support records available to the BLM upon request for analysis by qualified representatives of the BLM or other federal agencies authorized to review BLM's permitting activities. All such permittee records will be furnished upon request as outlined in 43 CFR 8372.5.
7. Granting the SRP by BLM does not guarantee the permittee's use of any specific campsite(s), nor the use of public lands in a given area, and not the exclusive use of any area by a single permittee. Issuance of a SRP does not establish nor imply recognition of any claimed historical use rights by the permittee. Other commercial users and private individuals may use all public land areas.
8. The Authorized Officer, or other duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or the permittee's operator, employees, or agent for up to 3 years after expiration of the permit.
9. The permittee will notify BLM of any accidents occurring on public lands which result in loss of life or consciousness, disabling of individual(s) in excess of 24 hours, having to secure medical treatment, or property damage in excess of \$100.00, and will submit a detailed written report to BLM within 24 hours from the date of the accident.
10. Any vehicle or ATV travel within Wilderness Study Areas is limited to existing or designated vehicle ways and routes. Cross-country motorized use is prohibited.
11. No vehicles are allowed within Wilderness Areas unless there is a life-threatening emergency; permittee must contact BLM in conjunction with the vehicle intrusion.
12. The permittee shall dispose of refuse resulting from the permitted use, including waste materials, garbage, and rubbish of all kinds in the following manner and shall guard the purity of streams and other surface waters:
 - a. All trash, plastics, and unburnable refuse will be packed out, not buried. All burnable materials must be completely consumed.
 - b. Pit-type toilets or port-a-johns, with or without tent covering, are mandatory at all camps having more than 10 people and being used more than one night. Toilet pits will be filled with earth when excrement reaches one foot below ground level,

and a new pit will be dug. All pits will be treated with lime when in use, and will be covered with earth when use is terminated, to the level of the original ground surface. Such pits must be located at least 200 feet from any water sources, campsites, or other use areas.

- c. No waste or by-products will be discharged if they contain any substances in concentrations that would result in substantial harm to fish and wildlife, or to human water supplies, including streams, springs, lakes, and reservoirs.
13. Camps must be located so as to avoid conflict with trail or road traffic and should be located out of sight of major trails.
 14. The permittee will provide first-aid equipment, which will be carried by employees during expeditions.
 15. A Special Recreation Permit (SRP) authorizes special uses of the public lands and related waters and, should circumstances warrant, the permit may be modified by the BLM at any time, including the authorized level of use. The Authorized Officer may suspend a SRP if there is noncompliance with permit stipulations. A SRP may also be suspended if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, and/or the environment.
 16. No value shall be assigned to or claimed for the permit, or for the occupancy or use of federal lands or related waters granted thereupon. The permit privileges are not to be considered property on which the permittee shall be entitled to earn or receive any return, income, price, or compensation. The use of a permit as collateral is not recognized by the BLM.
 17. The permittee or permittees representative may not assign, contract, or sublease any portion of the permit authorization or interest therein, directly or indirectly, voluntarily or involuntarily. However, the Authorized Officer may approve the contracting of equipment or services in advance if necessary to supplement a permittee's operations. Such contracting should not constitute more than half the required equipment or services for any one trip and the permittee must retain operational control of the permitted activity. If equipment or services are contracted, the permittee shall continue to be responsible for compliance with all stipulations and conditions of the permit.
 18. All advertising and representations made to the public and the Authorized Officer must be accurate. Although the addresses and telephone numbers of the BLM may be included in advertising materials, official agency symbols may not be used. The permittee shall not use advertising that attempts to portray or represent the activities as being conducted by the BLM. The permittee may not portray or represent the permit fee as a special federal user's tax. The permittee must furnish the Authorized Officer with any current brochure and price list if requested by the Authorized Officer.
 19. The following information must be submitted to the Ely Field Office quarterly.
 - a. Post-Use reports

- b. Permit application for next season of operation, including estimated use, locations of use, etc.
 - c. Current certificate of insurance
 - d. Updated Plan of Operation
20. Permit fees must be paid on or before the BLM's established billing date(s). If payment of fees is 90 calendar days in arrears, the special recreation permit will automatically terminate without the necessity of prior notice.
21. The permittee must assume responsibility for inspecting the permitted area for any existing or new hazardous conditions, e.g., trail and route conditions, land slides, avalanches, rocks, changing water or weather conditions, falling limbs or trees, submerged objects, hazardous wildlife, or other hazards that present risks for which the permittee assumes responsibility.
22. The permittee must present or display a copy of the SRP to an authorized BLM representative or law enforcement personnel upon request. If required, the permittee must display a copy of the permit or other identification tag on equipment used during the period of authorized use.
23. The permittee is responsible for leaving all gates as they are found, either opened or closed.
24. The permittee is responsible for obtaining permission from the landowner(s) to travel through or use private lands.
25. Cutting, removal, or destruction of any live vegetation is prohibited.
26. Gray water disposal areas will be located at least 50 feet down gradient from water sources. Soaps, detergents, or any other non-biodegradable foreign substances shall not be used in or near streams, springs, or water troughs.
27. Permittee shall use reasonable care to avoid transporting noxious weeds, seeds, or plant parts on clothes and equipment prior to accessing and leaving an area. All vegetative materials should be removed from under vehicles after driving on "two-track" roads.
28. The permittee shall not disturb archeological or historical values, and shall inform participants of the same. This includes the use or changing of ancient Native American hunting blinds. Participants will be made aware that removing prehistoric and historic artifacts is strictly prohibited.
29. The permittee shall not make available to the public any information concerning the nature and location of any archaeological resource.
30. Pursuant 43 CFR 10.4 (g), the holder of this authorization must notify the Authorized Officer by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of

human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony (as defined at 43 CFR 10.2). Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), activities in the vicinity of the discovery must cease for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the Authorized Officer.

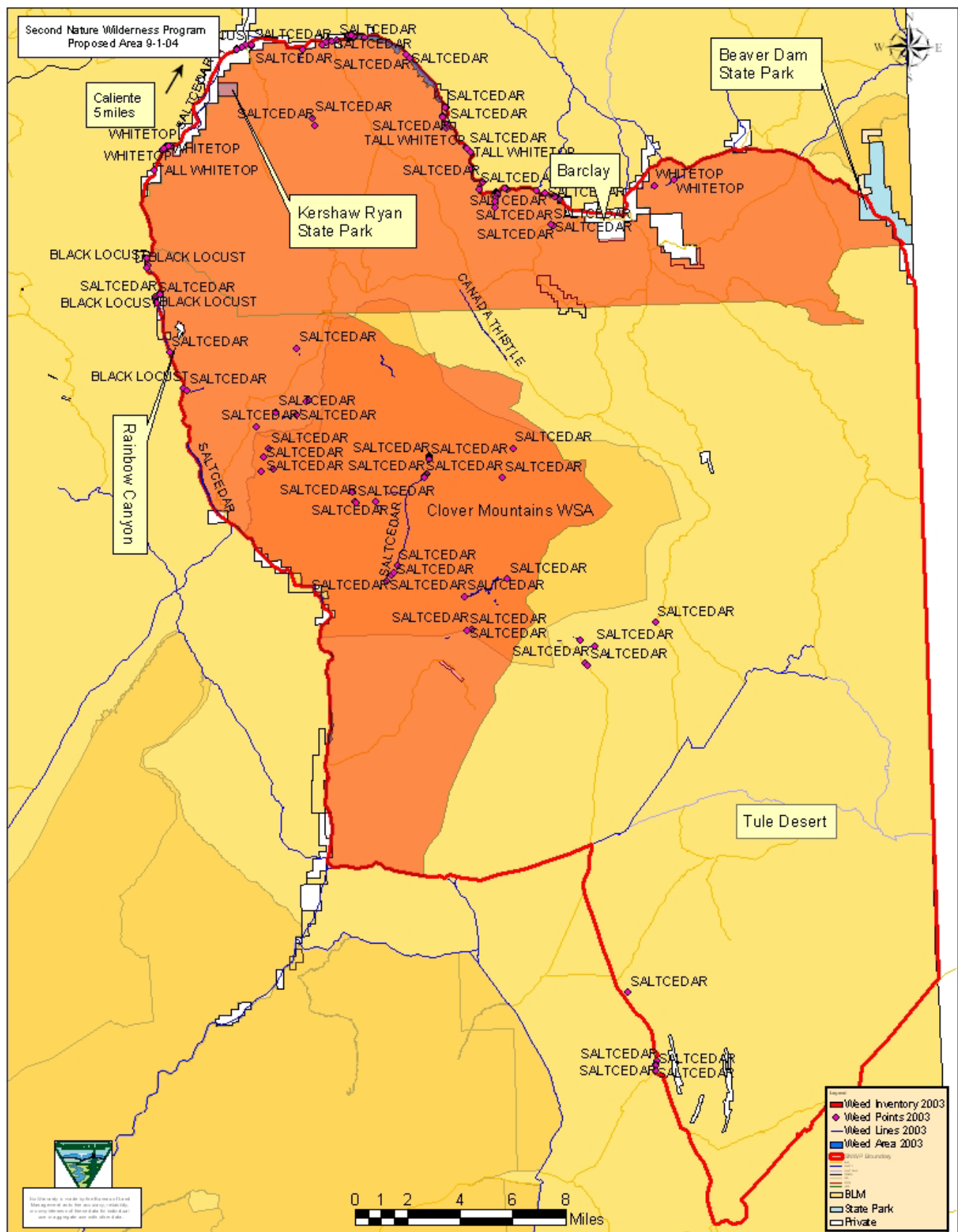
31. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that each participating group does not operate in any areas which are closed on a seasonal and permanent basis, e.g., sage grouse habitat areas closed on a permanent and/or seasonal basis, or bighorn sheep habitat areas which are permanently closed.
32. All campsites must be authorized by the BLM prior to use. Campsites may be relocated because of user conflicts or resource concerns. No semi-permanent base camp(s) are allowed under this permit, unless specifically authorized in writing from the BLM.
33. The following specific areas CANNOT be used for campsites: lakeshore, dry playas, the tops of knolls, the tops of ridges, caves, rock shelters, obsidian sources, or obvious archaeological or historic sites.
34. Campsites must be at least 100 yards away from springs or water holes. During dry years or seasons, the BLM will extend this distance to at least 1/4 mile.
35. Leave No Trace tactics will be used concerning campfires. No fire shall be left unattended. A shovel and water must be available at each campsite.
36. Only dead and down wood may be utilized for campfires. Cutting or gathering of firewood from historic structures or from live trees is prohibited.
37. During periods of high fire danger, fire use is restricted and campfires may be prohibited. It is the responsibility of the permittee to follow all fire restrictions. The permittee is responsible for keeping all participants and employees informed of the current fire danger and required precautions that may be placed in effect by the BLM or the State of Nevada.
38. Fires are prohibited inside caves or lava tubes.
39. The permittee is solely responsible for all fires started by any employees or participants and may be held responsible for fire suppression costs resulting from any wildfire caused by employees or participants.
40. The use of water from any range improvement projects such as wells and reservoirs is prohibited unless prior approval from authorized officer is granted.
41. The minimum general liability limits are as follows: \$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 annual aggregate for bodily injury, \$10,000 property damage per occurrence and \$25,000 annual aggregate, if the policy specifies aggregate limits. The Authorized Officer may require a larger amount as a condition of the permit.

42. The insurance policy shall name the United States Government and the permittee as named, additional, or co-insured. All liability policies are to specify that the insurance company shall have no right of subrogation against the United States of America. If the insurance company declines to issue the waiver, the United States Government must be named as additional insured on the permittee's policy. The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the United States against any liability from personal injury, loss of life or property damage arising in any way from activities under the permit.

Read and Signed

Date

Appendix IV – Risk Assessment for Noxious Weeds SNWP



RISK ASSESSMENT FOR NOXIOUS WEEDS

Second Nature Wilderness Program Operations

On October 1, 2004, a Noxious Weed Risk Assessment was completed for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The proposed action involves Second Nature Wilderness Program (SNWP) a treatment program designed to help struggling teens by taking them on extended hiking/backpacking trips in the backcountry. The remote public land and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ely District provides the optimum setting for SNWP. The program area is a 541,158 acre region located within the Clover Mountain watershed and includes the entire Clover Mountain WSA. The northern boundary is Clover Creek, the eastern boundary is the Nevada/Utah state line, and the western boundary runs along Rainbow Canyon and extends east towards Lyman Crossing.

The program area encompasses 527,492 federal acres, 11,381 private acres, and 2,285 State Park acres. A total of 235,852 acres of the program area have been inventoried for noxious weeds, while 305,306 acres have yet to be inventoried. The central UTM location of the program area is 4137683N and 740974E.

Mitigation: The project operations will be conducted in compliance Ely District Noxious Weed Schedules. Such complacent procedures include the following:

All vehicles will be limited to designated and existing roads. All vehicles and all other project equipment will be cleaned and inspected prior to entering public land and prior to entering all subsequent project areas. Cleaning and inspection of the vehicles and equipment will occur in private facilities located on private land. The cleaning will concentrate on the undercarriage, with special emphasis on axels, frame, cross members, motor mounts, and on underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper/brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs will be swept out with refuse and disposed of in waste receptacles.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious weed species spreading to the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4) at the present time. The program area is partially within the BLM weed surveyed area. Additional field reconnaissance was not conducted at the project site and surrounding areas. However, noxious weed maps were consulted (D. Anderson 9/30/04) SNWP Noxious Weed Map).

The map points out the following plant areas and types:

Whitetop, Saltcedar, Canada thistle, and Black locust

These weed infestations occur mainly along the northern boundary and western portions of the program area.

None (0) Noxious weed species not located within or adjacent to the project area. Project activity is not likely to result in the establishment of noxious weed species in the project area.

Low (1-3) Noxious weed species present in areas adjacent to but not within the project area. Project activities can be implemented and prevent the spread of noxious weeds into the project area.

Moderate (4-7) Noxious weed species located immediately adjacent to or within the project area. Project activities are likely to result in some areas becoming infested with noxious weed species even when preventative management actions are followed. Control measures are essential to prevent the spread of noxious weeds within the project area.

High (8-10) Heavy infestations of noxious weeds are located within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Project activities, even with preventative management actions, are likely to result in the establishment and spread of noxious weeds on disturbed sites throughout much of the project area.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as Moderate (4), adverse effects to the proposed site and possible expansion of weed infestations are possible, but limited.

Low (1-3) No cumulative effects expected.

Moderate (4-7) Possible adverse effects on the site and possible expansion of infestation within the project area. Cumulative effects on native plant communities are likely, but limited.

High (8-10) Obvious adverse effects within the project area and probable expansion of noxious weed infestations to areas outside the project area. Adverse cumulative effects on native plant communities are probable.

The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

For this project, the Risk Rating is Low (4): Factor 1 = 4 and Factor 2 = 4. Risk Rating = $4 * 4 = 16$.

None (0) Proceed as planned.

Low (1-10) Proceed as planned. Initiate control treatment on noxious weed populations that get established in the area.

Moderate (11-49) Develop preventative management measures for the proposed project to reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds into the area. Preventative management measures could include modifying the project to include seeding the area to occupy disturbed sites with desirable species, encouraging project advocate to watch for and report or eradicate any small weed patches in their project area, incorporating weed detection into project compliance inspection activities, encouraging the advocate to attend weed identification workshops when offered, washing vehicles prior to entering

project areas, and other actions as appropriate. Monitor the area for at least 3 consecutive years and provide for control of newly established populations of noxious weeds and follow-up treatment for previously treated infestations.

High (50-100) Project must be modified to reduce risk level through preventative management measures, including seeding with desirable species to occupy disturbed sites and controlling existing infestations of noxious weeds prior to project activity, washing all work vehicles before entering the site and at regular intervals throughout the project, requiring project advocate to watch for, report, and eradicate any small weed patches in their project area, incorporating weed detection into project compliance inspection activities, encouraging the advocate to attend weed identification workshops when offered equipment. Project must provide at least 5 consecutive years of monitoring and follow up weed treatment, for previously treated infestations.

Reviewed by: _____
Noxious Weed Coordinator

Date: _____